

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fastener assembly comprising:
 - a plate having a bearing surface and an oppositely disposed top surface;
 - a stud held within said plate, said stud having a pointed end, an oppositely disposed head, and a shank, said head being disposed above said top surface, and a substantial portion of said shank being disposed above said top surface of said plate so that said stud may be received in the barrel of a power actuated gun; and
 - an extending portion extending from the bearing surface and away from the head of the stud; wherein said plate further comprises a groove in said top surface corresponding in location to and above said extending portion in said bearing surface, said groove extending the length of the bearing surface and the length of said plate without interruption, said groove extending along a substantially linear and straight path along said groove's entire length, said groove being defined by and being disposed inside of a pair of edges and said groove having a profile, said plate including portions outside both of said pair of edges, said portions of said plate outside of said edges having different profiles than the profile of said groove inside both of said edges [, and said groove formed from at least two curves in said plate, said curves turning in opposite directions]].
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) A fastener assembly as in claim 1 further comprising:
 - an attachment leg angularly attached to said plate.
4. (Original) A fastener assembly as in claim 3 wherein:
 - said extending portion extends parallel to a plane of said attachment leg.
5. (Original) A fastener assembly as in claim 1 further comprising:
 - said plate comprises a raised portion.

6. (Withdrawn) A fastener assembly as in claim 1 further comprising:
a cone formed on said plate, said cone holding said stud.
7. (Withdrawn) A fastener assembly as in claim 5 wherein:
said stud does not extend below the bearing surface.
8. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 5 wherein:
said stud extends below the bearing surface.
9. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 1 wherein:
the extending portion further serves as guide means, formed in said plate, for
guiding the fastener assembly in a track.
10. (Original) A fastener assembly as in claim 5 further comprising:
means, formed in said plate, for assisting collapse of the raised portion.
11. (Currently Amended) A fastener assembly comprising:
a plate having a bearing surface and an oppositely disposed top surface and
a groove in said top surface;
a stud held within said plate, said stud having a pointed end, an oppositely
disposed head, and a shank, said head being disposed above said top
surface; and
guide means, placed on said plate, for guiding the fastener assembly within a
track, said guide means comprising an extending portion extending from the
bearing surface and away from the head of the stud, and said extending
portion extends the length of the bearing surface and the length of said plate
without interruption, wherein said plate further comprises a groove in said
top surface corresponding in location to and above said extending portion in
said bearing surface, said groove extending the length of the bearing surface
and the length of said plate without interruption, said groove extending along
a substantially linear and straight path along said groove's entire length, said
groove being defined by and being disposed inside of a pair of edges and
said groove having a profile, said plate including portions outside both of said
pair of edges, said portions of said plate outside of said edges having
different profiles than the profile of said groove inside both of said edges [,

and said groove formed from at least two curves in said plate, said curves turning in opposite directions]].

12. (Currently Amended) A fastener assembly comprising:
 - a plate having a bearing surface and a top surface;
 - a stud held within said plate; and
 - guide means, placed on said plate, for guiding the fastener assembly within a track; whereinsaid guide means comprises a groove on the top surface, said groove extending the length of the bearing surface and the plate without interruption, said groove extending along a substantially linear and straight path along said groove's entire length, said groove being defined by and being disposed inside of a pair of edges and said groove having a profile, said plate including portions outside both of said pair of edges, said portions of said plate outside of said edges having different profiles than the profile of said groove inside both of said edges [[, and said groove formed from at least two curves in said plate, said curves turning in opposite directions]].
13. (Withdrawn) A fastener assembly comprising:
 - a plate having a bearing surface;
 - a stud held within said plate; and
 - guide means, placed on said plate, for guiding the fastener assembly within a track; whereinsaid guide means comprises a tab.
14. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 11 further comprising:
 - a raised portion formed in said plate, said raised portion creating an initial bearing surface area, said raised portion not contributing to the bearing surface area of said plate in an initial position, and said raised portion being adapted to collapse as when said stud is driven, and said raised portion being adapted to contribute to said bearing surface area of said plate such that said plate has a greater bearing surface area than said initial bearing surface area after said raised portion has collapsed.
15. (Original) A fastener assembly as in claim 12 further comprising:

an attachment leg angularly attached to said plate, and said groove extends parallel to a plane of said attachment leg.

16. (Currently Amended) A fastener assembly comprising:
a plate having a raised portion and a top surface and a bearing surface;
a stud held within said plate;
said raised portion creating an initial bearing surface area, said raised portion of said plate not contributing to the bearing surface area of said plate in an initial position, and said raised portion being adapted to collapse as when said stud is driven, and said raised portion being adapted to contribute to said bearing surface area of said plate such that said plate has a greater bearing surface area than said initial bearing surface area after said raised portion has collapsed; and
a plurality of grooves formed within the raised portion of said plate, whereby said plurality of grooves are adapted to assist the raised portion to collapse when the fastener assembly is driven by a power actuated gun, said grooves extend the length of the bearing surface and the length of said plate without interruption, said groove extending along a substantially linear and straight path along said groove's entire length, said groove being defined by and being disposed inside of a pair of edges and said groove having a profile, said plate including portions outside both of said pair of edges, said portions of said plate outside of said edges having different profiles than the profile of said groove inside both of said edges [[, and said groove formed from at least two curves in said plate, said curves turning in opposite directions]].
17. (Withdrawn) A fastener assembly as in claim 16 wherein:
the raised portion of said plate has a substantially rectangular cross section.
18. (Withdrawn) A fastener assembly as in claim 17 wherein:
one of said plurality of grooves is placed at each corner of said rectangular cross section.
19. (Original) A fastener assembly as in claim 16 wherein:
the raised portion of said plate comprises a portion of a cylinder.

20. (Currently Amended) A fastener assembly feeding system for use with a power actuated gun comprising:

- a plurality of unattached plates, each having a bearing surface;
- a stud held within each of said plates, the plates and the studs associated therewith making individual fastener assemblies;
- an extending portion formed on each of said plates;
- a feeding track; and
- a mating portion formed on said track, said mating portion complementing said extending portion, said extending portion extends the length of the bearing surface and the length of said plate without interruption, wherein said plate further comprises a groove in said top surface corresponding in location to and above said extending portion in said bearing surface, said groove extending the length of the bearing surface and the length of said plate without interruption, said groove extending along a substantially linear and straight path along said groove's entire length, said groove being defined by and being disposed inside of a pair of edges and said groove having a profile, said plate including portions outside both of said pair of edges, said portions of said plate outside of said edges having different profiles than the profile of said groove inside both of said edges [, and said groove formed from at least two curves in said plate, said curves turning in opposite directions]],

whereby the fastener assemblies are guided along said feeding track.

21. (Previously presented) A fastener feeding system for use with a power actuated gun as in claim 20, wherein:

- said extending portion comprises a groove.

22. (Previously presented) A fastener feeding system for use with a power actuated gun as in claim 20 further comprising:

- an attachment leg angularly attached to said plate.

23. (Previously presented) A fastener feeding system for use with power a power actuated gun as in claim 20 wherein:

- said plate has a raised portion.

24. (Withdrawn) A fastener assembly feeding system for use with a power actuated gun comprising:

- a plate having a bearing leg with a raised portion and an attachment leg;
 - a stud frictionally held within the raised portion of said bearing leg;
 - a groove placed within said bearing leg between said stud and said attachment leg, said groove extending parallel to a plane of the attachment leg;
 - a foot formed on one edge of said bearing leg;
 - a tab formed in said bearing leg and extending in a direction opposite to said foot;
 - a track portion adapted to receive said plate;
 - a mating portion formed in said track portion, said mating portion complementing and adapted to receive said groove; and
 - a channel formed with said track portion, said channel adapted to receive said tab,
- whereby a plurality of fastener assemblies are guided along said track.

25. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claimed 12 further comprising:

- a raised portion formed in said plate.

26. (Withdrawn) A fastener assembly as in claim 13 further comprising:

- a raised portion formed in said plate.

27. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 5, further comprising:
an attachment leg angularly attached to said plate.

28. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 27, wherein:
said extending portion extends parallel to a plane of said attachment leg.

29. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 28, wherein:
a plurality of grooves are formed within the raised portion of said plate,
whereby said plurality of grooves are adapted to assist the raised portion to collapse when the fastener assembly is driven by a power actuated gun.

30. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 29, wherein:

the raised portion of said plate comprises a portion of a cylinder.

31. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 5, wherein:
a plurality of grooves are formed within the raised portion of said plate,
whereby said plurality of grooves are adapted to assist the raised portion to
collapse when the fastener assembly is driven by a power actuated gun and
the head of the stud strikes the raised portion.
32. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 31, wherein:
the raised portion of said plate comprises a portion of a cylinder.
33. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 14, further comprising:
an attachment leg angularly attached to said plate.
34. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 33, wherein:
said extending portion extends parallel to a plane of said attachment leg.
35. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 34, wherein:
a plurality of grooves are formed within the raised portion of said plate,
whereby said plurality of grooves are adapted to assist the raised portion to
collapse when the fastener assembly is driven by a power actuated gun.
36. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 35, wherein:
the raised portion of said plate comprises a portion of a cylinder.
37. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 14, wherein:
a plurality of grooves are formed within the raised portion of said plate,
whereby said plurality of grooves are adapted to assist the raised portion to
collapse when the fastener assembly is driven by a power actuated gun.
38. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 37, wherein:
the raised portion of said plate comprises a portion of a cylinder.
39. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 12, wherein:
said plate comprises a raised portion

40. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 12, further comprising:
an attachment leg angularly attached to said plate.
41. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 40, wherein:
said groove extends parallel to a plane of said attachment leg.
42. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 41, wherein:
a plurality of grooves are formed within the raised portion of said plate,
whereby said plurality of grooves are adapted to assist the raised portion to
collapse when the fastener assembly is driven by a power actuated gun.
43. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 42, wherein:
the raised portion of said plate comprises a portion of a cylinder.
44. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 39, wherein:
a plurality of grooves are formed within the raised portion of said plate,
whereby said plurality of grooves are adapted to assist the raised portion to
collapse when the fastener assembly is driven by a power actuated gun and
the stud strikes the raised portion.
45. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 44, wherein:
the raised portion of said plate comprises a portion of a cylinder.
46. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 16, further comprising:
an attachment leg angularly attached to said plate.
47. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 46, wherein:
said groove extends parallel to a plane of said attachment leg.
48. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 47, wherein:
the raised portion of said plate comprises a portion of a cylinder.
49. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 23, wherein:
a plurality of grooves are formed within the raised portion of said plate,
whereby said plurality of grooves are adapted to assist the raised portion to
collapse when the fastener assembly is driven by a power actuated gun.

50. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 49, further comprising:
an attachment leg angularly attached to said plate.
51. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 50, wherein:
said groove extends parallel to a plane of said attachment leg.
52. (Previously presented) A fastener assembly as in claim 51, wherein:
the raised portion of said plate comprises a portion of a cylinder.